(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the additional steps taken to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) University of Hyderabad has tied up with 8 Industries and 14 Institutions during the last three years. Industry - Institute linkage has resulted in establishing new laboratories in the Universities with software institutes and research activities, thereby, benefiting large number of research scholars, students and faculty to pursue their academic and research activities.

In order to enhance productivity of skilled workers, DGE&T, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, has also initiated a programme of upgrading 1396 Government Industrial Training Institutes through Public Private Partnership in the country, including State of Andhra Pradesh.

Assistance for children engaged in economic activity

2406. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VUAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 1.65 crore children of 5-15 age group, are engaged in economic activity;

(b) if so, whether for this multi-faceted social problem, significant assistance and co-operation from Ministries like Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Rural and Urban Development, etc. is to be enlisted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per Census 2001, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years is 1.26 crore in the country.

(b) 'and (c) As child labour is a socio-economic problem, a multi-pronged approach is required to tackle this problem. Therefore, in addition to implementation of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work,' the Government is taking various pro-active measures for economic upliftment of their families, under various developmental and poverty alleviation programmes/schemes of other Ministries. For effective convergence with-other Ministries, Government has formed a Core Group on Child Labour with the representatives of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.